

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DOE-15 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-02 NSC-05 SOE-02  
SS-15 OES-07 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10  
NRC-07 /156 W

-----014848 040121Z /75

P 040037Z JUL 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2421  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02783

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, UNGA

SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE: GENERAL DEBATE ON  
JUNE 30

1. SUMMARY: THE OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE (OSC) CONTINUED ITS  
GENERAL DEBATE ON JUNE 30 WITH STATEMENTS BY CHILE, IRAN,  
COLOMBIA, ITU, BRAZIL, INDONESIA, MONGOLIA, PHILIPPINES,  
YUGOSLAVIA AND KENYA. THE TOPICS DEALT WITH INCLUDED THE  
MOON TREATY, DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITES (DBS), REMOTE  
SENSING, NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN SPACE, DEFINITION OF  
OUTER SPACE, GEOSTATIONARY ORBITS (GSO) AND A POSSIBLE  
UN CONFERENCE ON OUTER SPACE.

2. THE CHILEAN REP DESCRIBED AUSTRIAN DRAFT OF MOON  
TREATY AS EXCELLENT BASIS ON WHICH TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS  
AND SUPPORTED "COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND" CONCEPT.  
ON DBS, HE DESCRIBED CURRENT ITU AGREEMENT AS  
INSUFFICIENT AND NOTED NEED FOR AN INITIATIVE RELATIVE  
TO PRIOR CONSENT OF RECEIVING STATE. HE POINTED TO  
NEED FOR REGULATION OF REMOTE SENSING, NOTING IMPORTANCE  
OF RESPECTING STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND NEED TO OBTAIN PRIOR  
CONSENT OF SENSED STATE WHEN DISSEMINATION OF DATA  
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ABOUT THAT STATE MIGHT BE HARMFUL TO ITS INTERESTS.  
HE URGED THAT THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR POWER IN SPACE  
CONTINUE TO BE DISCUSSED BY OSC AND ITS SUBCOMMITTEES.  
HE SAW NECESSITY FOR UN CONFERENCE AND URGED THAT IT  
TAKE PLACE AT UN HEADQUARTERS.

3. IRANIAN REP EXPRESSED HOPE FOR FINAL ACCORD ON MOON

TREATY, NOTING THAT AUSTRIAN DRAFT OFFERS GREAT PROMISE. HE NOTED POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF DBS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (DCS), BUT NOTED IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING PRINCIPLE OF STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND CALLED FOR SPIRIT OF COOPERATION IN HARMONIZING THIS WITH FREEDOM OF INFORMATION. HE SUPPORTED IDEA OF PANEL OF EXPERTS TO CONSIDER ISSUES RELATED TO REMOTE SENSING. HE ALSO CALLED ATTENTION TO NEED TO OBVIATE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF REENTRY OF NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES FROM SPACE.

4. COLOMBIAN REP NOTED VITAL IMPORTANCE TO EQUATORIAL COUNTRIES OF GSO, WHICH HE CLASSIFIED AS UNIQUE ORBIT SIMILAR TO NATURAL RESOURCE. HE REFERRED TO 1977 WARC AND TO SATURATION OF GSO, WHICH ALREADY CONTAINS 108 SATELLITES. HE ADDED THAT THERE SHOULD BE PROPER REGULATION OF GSO, WHICH SHOULD BE EXCLUDED BY DEFINITION FROM OUTER SPACE, AND ASSERTED RIGHT OF EQUATORIAL STATE TO EXERCISE PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER SEGMENT OF GSO OVER ITS TERRITORY. HE SAID PRIOR NOTIFICATION AND CONSENT ARE REQUIRED FOR REMOTE SENSING. HE SUPPORTED CONVENING OF UN CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD DEAL WITH BOTH LEGAL AND SCIENTIFIC ISSUES.

5. ITU REP DESCRIBED ITU ACTIVITIES AND DID NOT ADDRESS SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES.  
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6. BRAZILIAN REP SAID AUSTRIAN DRAFT OF MOON TREATY DESERVED FULL CONSIDERATION, ALONG WITH EARLIER TEXTS. ON NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN SPACE, HE SAW REQUIREMENT FOR NOTIFICATION OF REENTRY, ALONG WITH SAFEGUARDS SUBJECT TO EFFECTIVE VERIFICATION. ON REMOTE SENSING, HE SAW NEED TO PRESERVE RIGHT OF SOVEREIGNTY AND SUGGESTED FURTHER WORK BY STSC. HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ON CHANCES FOR AGREEMENT THIS YEAR ON DBS. HE SAID PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION MUST BE CONDITIONED BY RIGHT OF STATE TO EXCLUDE FOREIGN BROADCASTS. HE DESCRIBED GSO AS SUI GENERIS AND SAID RIGHTS OF ALL PARTIES SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY REGULATION. HE SAID UN CONFERENCE WOULD BE JUSTIFIED ONLY IF PRECEDED BY CAREFUL PREPARATORY WORK.

7. INDONESIAN REP NOTED DIFFERENCES STILL PERSIST ON MOON TREATY. HE SAID AUSTRIAN TEXT CONTAINS MANY PRINCIPLES INDONESIA BELIEVES ARE IMPORTANT, INCLUDING "COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND" CONCEPT. ON DBS, HE SAW GREAT POTENTIAL FOR DCS, BUT REJECTED PRINCIPLE OF FREE DISSEMINATION SINCE IT IS IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE

NATIONAL IDENTITY. HE ALSO SAW  
SIGNIFICANT ROLE FOR REMOTE SENSING IN DEVELOPMENT OF  
DCS. GOVERNING PRINCIPLES SHOULD BE THAT (1) REMOTE  
SENSING IS CARRIED OUT FOR BENEFIT OF ALL, (2) PRIOR  
APPROVAL IS OBTAINED FROM SENSED STATE BEFORE  
DISSEMINATION OF DATA, (3) ADVANCE NOTICE IS GIVEN,  
(4) BROAD PARTICIPATION IS OFFERED (E.G., THROUGH  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL  
CENTERS) AND (5) DATA ARE NOT USED IN MANNER INCOMPATIBLE  
WITH INTERESTS OF SENSED STATE. HE SAW NEED FOR CLEAR  
DEFINITION OF OUTER SPACE AND URGED COMMITTEE TO  
RECOMMEND TO UNGA HOLDING OF UN CONFERENCE.

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DOE-15 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 NASA-02 NSC-05 SOE-02 SS-15 OES-07 NRC-07  
/156 W

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8. MONGOLIAN REP URGED OSC TO KEEP MEMBERSHIP AT  
PRESENT NUMBER. HE SUPPORTED UN CONFERENCE BUT NOTED  
NEED FOR CAREFUL PREPARATION. HE DESCRIBED REMOTE  
SENSING AS MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE BEFORE OSC. HE  
RECOGNIZED NEED FOR FREEDOM FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH,  
BUT STRESSED SOVEREIGNTY OF STATES OVER THEIR RESOURCES  
AND INFORMATION RELATED TO THESE RESOURCES AND  
SUPPORTED CLASSIFICATION OF DATA BASED PRIMARILY UPON  
RESOLUTION. ON DBS, HE SUPPORTED PRINCIPLE OF PRIOR  
CONSENT OF STATE TO WHICH BROADCAST IS AIMED. HE  
ALSO SUPPORTED "COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND" LANGUAGE  
IN MOON TREATY.

9. PHILIPPINE REP EXPRESSED HOPE OSC WOULD ACCOMMODATE  
OTHER STATES WHICH WISH TO JOIN. HE SUPPORTED UN  
CONFERENCE TO BE HELD THREE YEARS AFTER UNGA

DECISION AND SAID IT SHOULD BE MORE OF A "TRADE FAIR"  
THAN A "SCIENTIFIC SEMINAR." ON NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES  
IN SPACE, HE SAID BEST GUARANTEE OF NOT REPEATING  
EARLIER INCIDENT WOULD BE A BAN ON SUCH DEVICES.  
HOWEVER, ACCEPTING THE WORD OF THE SPACE POWERS THAT  
SUCH DEVICES ARE IMPORTANT, HE SAID HE COULD ACCEPT  
STRINGENT NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES AND SAFEGUARDS, ALONG  
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WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE WHENEVER REQUIRED BY  
REENTRY OF THESE DEVICES. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION  
FOR TECHNICAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY US AND URGED  
OTHERS TO FOLLOW US EXAMPLE.

10. YUGOSLAV REP SAID HE COULD NOT SEE HOW TO SOLVE DBS  
PROBLEM ON ANY BASIS OTHER THAN THAT AGREED BY ITU IN  
1977. HE FAVORED CLOSE INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION ON  
REMOTE SENSING AND ASKED WHETHER A GLOBAL SYSTEM SIMILAR  
TO INTELSAT AND INTERSPUTNIK WOULD BE DEvised. HE SAID  
DEFINITION OF OUTER SPACE AND GSO SHOULD HAVE HIGH  
PRIORITY, BUT GAVE NO POSITION ON EITHER. ON NUCLEAR  
POWER SOURCES IN SPACE, HE CALLED FOR THOROUGH ANALYSIS  
OF SAFETY MEASURES, NOTIFICATION AND TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE. HE ALSO SUPPORTED A UN CONFERENCE, NOTING  
THE NEED FOR CAREFUL PREPARATION.

11. KENYAN REP COMMENTED THAT INDISCRIMINATE  
DISSEMINATION OF REMOTELY-SENSED DATA CAN WORK TO  
DETRIMENT OF SENSED STATE. HE URGED DEFINITE  
RECOMMENDATIONS TO UNGA TO HOLD UN CONFERENCE ASAP.  
ON GSO, HE SAID THAT, IN ABSENCE OF DEFINITION OF  
OUTER SPACE, SOVEREIGNTY OF EQUATORIAL COUNTRIES  
EXTENDS TO PART OF GSO OVER THEIR TERRITORY.  
THEREFORE, CONSENT SHOULD BE SOUGHT BEFORE PLACING  
SATELLITE IN GSO OVER A STATE. HE EXPRESSED  
DISAPPOINTMENT AT SLOW PROGRESS ON DBS IN VIEW OF  
POTENTIAL IMPORTANCE FOR DCS IN EDUCATION AND  
COMMUNICATION. HE AGREED THAT FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
FOR INDIVIDUAL IS IMPORTANT, BUT SAID CONTEXT MUST BE  
TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. HE URGED RESPECT FOR DIVERSE  
CULTURES AND URGED OSC TO WORK FOR QUICK RESOLUTION.  
LEONARD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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